

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are presently pending in the application.

The subject matter of claims 5 and 6 has been incorporated into claim 1, and claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 1 instead of cancelled claim 3. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments, and entry is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite in that claim 3 does not list any limitations and claim 4 depends from claim 3. However, the Examiner is incorrect in that claim 3 was previously cancelled by amendments under PCT Article 34, and the subject matter of original claim 3 is already part of claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese published patent application JP 8-111,230 of Hiroshi, *et al.* While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner's rejection and the arguments in support thereof, this rejection is moot, since claim 6 (indicated by the Examiner to be allowable) has been incorporated into claim 1 along with claim 5. Therefore, claims 1, 2 and 5 as rejected by the Examiner are no longer present in this application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to claim 6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. As indicated above, the subject matter of claims 5 and 6 has been incorporated into claim 1, so that claim 6 is now in independent form. All remaining claims depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that all of the claims in the application are in full condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Date)

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